

#### **4VAC15-50-12. Game: Bear: Youth and Apprentice Hunter Bear Hunting Weekend.**

##### **Summary:**

The proposal is to correct a boundary line that was improperly recorded in the 2017 regulation amendment.

##### **Proposed language of amendment:**

##### **4VAC15-50-12. Youth and Apprentice Hunter Bear Hunting Weekend.**

It shall be lawful for hunters 15 years of age and under and holders of a valid apprentice hunting license, when in compliance with all applicable laws and license requirements, to hunt bears on the second Saturday in October and the following calendar day when accompanied and directly supervised by an adult who has a valid Virginia hunting license on his person or is exempt from purchasing a hunting license. Adult hunters accompanying youth or apprentice bear hunters on this weekend may not carry or discharge weapons. Bear bag limit, weight limits, and all other take restrictions specifically provided in the sections appearing in this chapter apply to this youth weekend. Bear hunting with dogs is prohibited in the counties of Accomack, Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Fairfax, Grayson (~~east~~ west of Route 16), Henry, Loudoun, Northampton, Patrick, Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Roanoke (south of Interstate 81), Smyth (south of Interstate 81 and ~~east~~ west of Route 16), Washington (south of Interstate 81), and in the city of Lynchburg; and on Amelia, Chester F. Phelps, G. Richard Thompson, and Pettigrew Wildlife Management Areas. Tracking dogs as described in § 29.1-516.1 of the Code of Virginia may be used.

##### **Rationale:**

In a previous regulation cycle, when certain counties were excluded from hound use during the youth and apprentice bear hunting weekend at a final Board meeting, the boundaries for Grayson and Smyth were drawn to exclude the heavily used portions of Mount Rogers recreation area. These boundaries were drawn to match the boundaries for hound training season. However, the language submitted to the registrar was misinterpreted to mean hounds were allowed in areas where hounds were actually prohibited. This proposal makes no functional changes to the boundaries for excluding hounds during this season as this is how the season has been represented in the hunting digest for four years.